

declaration: The United States of America declares that, in view of its reservations, current United States law, including the laws of the States of United States, fulfills the obligations of the Convention for the United States. Accordingly, the United States of America does not intend to enact new legislation to fulfill its obligations under the Convention.

(b) The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declarations, which shall be included in the United States instrument of ratification:

(1) In accordance with Article 66, paragraph 3, the United States of America declares that it does not consider itself bound by the obligation set forth in Article 66, paragraph 2.

(2) The United States declares that the provisions of the Convention (with the exception of Articles 44 and 46) are non-self-executing. None of the provisions of the Convention creates a private right of action.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 3840. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax incentive to produce ethanol in high-consumption, low-production States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KYL (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. REID, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3841. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation to carry out the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program in the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 3842. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on synthetic quartz or fused silica photomask blank substrates; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 3843. A bill to amend the African Growth and Opportunity Act to extend certain trade benefits to eligible sub-Saharan African countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 3844. A bill to provide for the investment of all funds collected from the tariff on imports of ethanol in the research, development, and deployment of biofuels, especially cellulosic ethanol produced from biomass feedstocks; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 13

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 13, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to expand and enhance health care, mental health, transition, and disability benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 241

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 241, a bill to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act.

S. 311

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 311, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States the option to provide medicaid coverage for low-income individuals infected with HIV.

S. 331

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 331, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care.

S. 407

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 558

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 558, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such current receipt.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1035, a bill to authorize the presentation of commemorative medals on behalf of Congress to Native Americans who served as Code Talkers during foreign conflicts in which the United States was involved during the 20th century in recognition of the service of those Native Americans to the United States.

S. 1046

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1046, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance.

S. 1324

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1324, a bill to reduce and prevent childhood obesity by encouraging schools and school districts to develop and implement local, school-based programs designed to reduce and prevent childhood obesity, promote increased physical activity, and improve nutritional choices.

S. 1325

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1325, a bill to establish grants to provide health services for improved nutrition, increased physical activity, obesity and eating disorder prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1353, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1423

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1423, a bill to provide for a medal of appropriate design to be awarded by the President to the next of kin or other representatives of those individuals killed as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

S. 1537

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1537, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of Parkinson's Disease Research Education and Clinical Centers in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Multiple Sclerosis Centers of Excellence.

S. 1948

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1948, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1948, supra.

S. 2200

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2200, a bill to establish a United States-Poland parliamentary youth exchange program, and for other purposes.

S. 2292

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska

(Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2292, a bill to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges.

S. 2401

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2401, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain energy tax incentives, and for other purposes.

S. 2475

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2475, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino Community, to develop a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Museum of the American Latino Community in Washington, DC, and for other purposes.

S. 2503

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2503, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an extension of the period of limitation to file claims for refunds on account of disability determinations by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 2545

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2545, a bill to establish a collaborative program to protect the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

S. 2590

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2590, a bill to require full disclosure of all entities and organizations receiving Federal funds.

S. 2677

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2677, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the investment tax credit with respect to solar energy property and qualified fuel cell property, and for other purposes.

S. 2917

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2917, a bill to amend the

Communications Act of 1934 to ensure net neutrality.

S. 3490

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3490, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to initiate and complete an evaluation of land and water located in northeastern Pennsylvania for future acquisition and inclusion in a potential Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes.

S. 3535

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3535, a bill to modernize and update the National Housing Act and to enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk based pricing to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes.

S. 3633

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3633, a bill to require the withholding of United States contributions to the United Nations until the President certifies that the United Nations is not engaged in global taxation schemes.

S. 3652

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3652, a bill to amend the definition of a law enforcement officer under subchapter III of chapter 83 and chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, respectively, to ensure the inclusion of certain positions.

S. 3694

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3694, a bill to increase fuel economy standards for automobiles, and for other purposes.

S. 3696

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3696, a bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to prevent the use of the legal system in a manner that extorts money from State and local governments, and the Federal Government, and inhibits such governments' constitutional actions under the first, tenth, and fourteenth amendments.

S. 3705

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3705, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to improve requirements under the Medicaid program for items and services furnished

in or through an educational program or setting to children, including children with developmental, physical, or mental health needs, and for other purposes.

S. 3718

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3718, a bill to increase the safety of swimming pools and spas by requiring the use of proper anti-entrapment drain covers and pool and spa drainage systems, by establishing a swimming pool safety grant program administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to encourage States to improve their pool and spa safety laws and to educate the public about pool and spa safety, and for other purposes.

S. 3724

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3724, a bill to enhance scientific research and competitiveness through the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, and for other purposes.

S. 3737

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3737, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Washington-Rochambeau Route National Historic Trail.

S. 3765

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3765, a bill to designate Lebanon under section 244(b) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act to permit nationals of Lebanon to be granted temporary protected status in the United States.

S. 3773

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3773, a bill to increase the number of Federal judgeships, in accordance with recommendations by the Judicial Conference, in districts that have an extraordinarily high immigration caseload.

S. 3795

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3795, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a two-year moratorium on certain Medicare physician payment reductions for imaging services.

S. 3807

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3807, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve drug safety and oversight, and for other purposes.

S. 3825

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3825, a bill to end the flow of methamphetamine and precursor chemicals coming across the border of the United States.

S. 3828

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3828, a bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 71

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 71, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that States should require candidates for driver's licenses to demonstrate an ability to exercise greatly increased caution when driving in the proximity of a potentially visually impaired individual.

S. CON. RES. 97

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 97, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber.

S. CON. RES. 101

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 101, a concurrent resolution condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community and calling for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is.

S. RES. 494

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 494, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the creation of refugee populations in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf region as a result of human rights violations.

S. RES. 552

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 552, a resolution designating September 2006 as "National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month".

AMENDMENT NO. 4764

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4764 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5631, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS—AUGUST 3, 2006

By Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3813. A bill to permit individuals who are employees of a grantee that is receiving funds under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act to enroll in health insurance coverage provided under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be an original coauthor of the Community Health Center Employee Health Coverage Act of 2006 with Senators SMITH and MURKOWSKI. I ask for unanimous consent that a fact sheet with respect to the legislation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FACT SHEET

Problem: Like many small businesses, health centers have seen their health insurance premiums sky-rocket. Although they delivered comprehensive primary and preventive care to more than 15 million people in 2004, more than 6 million of whom had no health insurance coverage, these rising costs will have detrimental impacts on health centers as they are forced to channel federal grant dollars (which are intended for the uninsured and underinsured) to pay for the increasing insurance expenditures. If this continues, health centers may eventually be forced to either reduce the coverage of their own employees or reduce the availability of health care in their already underserved communities.

Fortunately, employees of health centers are generally healthy individuals and largely do not have chronic diseases or high medical bills. The irony here is that at the same time that health center employees are providing quality care to the uninsured and very poor, they are often unable to afford health insurance themselves. Furthermore, health centers have cited affordable health care as a key concern in recruiting and retaining quality employees and clinical staff.

Solution: This bipartisan legislation, introduced by Senators Smith, Bingaman, and Murkowski, would reduce health centers' rising health insurance costs and also improve coverage in many cases and therefore save taxpayer grant money that would otherwise be used to pay health insurance premiums. The bill would enable health centers to use scarce funds to continue providing care in their communities. In addition, extending coverage under FEHBP to health centers would allow health centers to continue to offer health insurance to their employees so they too don't join the ranks of the uninsured.

This bill would not set a precedent. The law currently provides for Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) coverage for other individuals who are not federal employees but do receive federal grant

funds for their operations, such as Gallaudet University or USDA grant recipients comprised of local farmers. Currently FEHBP covers over nine million federal employees, while Health Centers employ nearly 100,000 people across the country.

This would be a logical extension of the health centers' Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) legislation, where health center staffers are deemed as federal employees for medical malpractice coverage purposes. This bill would extend the same mechanism for health insurance purposes.

Benefit: This bill will aid in the continuation of providing quality health care to those who need it most. It would also provide relief to community health centers in the form of lower premiums and better coverage for their employees by deeming them as federal employees for purposes of the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program (FEHBP). There should be no federal cost for this bill as health centers will pay the health care premiums for their employees but at a less expensive cost.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KYL (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. REID, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3841. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation to carry out the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program in the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, today I am pleased to join with Senators ENSIGN, FEINSTEIN and REID to introduce the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Act. This bipartisan legislation is designed to protect and maintain wildlife habitat on the lower Colorado River and to provide assurances to the affected water and power agencies of Arizona, California, and Nevada that their river operations may continue upon compliance with the underlying program.

The Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, otherwise known as the MSCP, is a comprehensive, cooperative effort among 50 Federal and non-Federal entities in Arizona, California, and Nevada whose purposes are to: 1. protect the lower Colorado River environment while ensuring the certainty of existing river water and power operations; 2. protect threatened and endangered wildlife under the Endangered Species Act; and 3. prevent the listing of additional species on the lower Colorado River.

To accomplish these goals, the MSCP will create more than 8,100 acres of riparian, marsh, and backwater habitat and implement additional measures to protect 26 endangered, threatened and sensitive species. The program covers approximately 400 miles, including the full-pool elevations of Lake Mead to the United States-Mexico Southerly International Boundary.

The program costs will be spread over 50 years, and split 50/50 between the Federal Government and the non-